

What is claimed is:

1. A composition for disinfection of the skin comprising:  
at least one alkyl ester of lactic acid wherein the alkyl group of said alkyl ester has 1 to 12 carbon atoms.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is methyl lactate.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is butyl lactate.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is propyl lactate.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is ethyl lactate.
6. The composition of claim 2 wherein the concentration of methyl lactate is between about 2% and about 50% by volume.
7. The composition of claim 3 wherein the concentration of butyl lactate is between about 2% and about 50% by volume.
8. The composition of claim 4 wherein the concentration of propyl lactate is between about 2% and about 50% by volume.
9. The composition of claim 5 wherein the concentration of ethyl lactate is between about 2% and about 50% by volume.
10. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a composition selected from the group comprising emollients, water,

odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.

11. The composition of claim 6 further comprising:  
a composition selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
12. The composition of claim 7 further comprising:  
a composition selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
13. The composition of claim 8 further comprising:  
a composition selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
14. The composition of claim 9 further comprising:  
a composition selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
15. A composition comprising:  
at least one alkyl ester of lactic acid wherein alkyl group is selected from methyl, butyl, propyl, or ethyl in concentrations between 10% and about 20% by volume.

16. The composition of claim 15 further comprising:  
a composition selected from the group emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.
17. A method for reducing the bacterial count of the skin comprising:  
applying topically to the surface of the skin a composition of at least one alkyl ester of lactic acid wherein the alkyl group of said alkyl ester has 1 to 12 carbon atoms.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is methyl lactate.
19. The method of claim 17 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is butyl lactate.
20. The method of claim 17 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is propyl lactate.
21. The method of claim 17 wherein the alkyl ester of lactic acid is ethyl lactate.
22. The method of claim 18 further comprising:  
applying topically to the surface of the skin a composition wherein the concentration of methyl lactate is between about 2% and about 50% by volume; and

wherein said composition is selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.

23. The method of claim 19 comprising:

applying topically to the surface of the skin a composition wherein the concentration of butyl lactate is between about 2% and about 50% by volume; and  
wherein said composition is selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.

24. The method of claim 20 comprising:

applying topically a composition wherein the concentration of propyl lactate is between about 2% and about 50% by volume; and wherein said composition is selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.

25. The method of claim 21 comprising:

applying topically a composition wherein the concentration of ethyl lactate is between about 2% and about 50% by volume; and wherein said composition is selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.

26. A method for reducing the bacterial count of the skin comprising:

applying topically to the surface of the skin a composition with at least one alkyl ester of lactic acid wherein alkyl group is methyl, butyl, propyl, or ethyl in concentrations between 10% and about 20% by volume; and a composition selected from the group comprising emollients, water, odorants, surfactants, disinfectants, detergents or a combination thereof.